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Wisbech Rural District Council

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

1957.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

M.Doreen C.Martin,
M.B.Ch.B., D.C.H.

District Council Offices
Alexandra Road,
Wisbech.

WISBECH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:-

The Chairman (Mr.W.D.Hunter-Rowe,J.P.), The Vice-Chairman (Mr.M.Pentelow), and the full Council.

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Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:-

Medical Officer of Health -

M.DOREEN C.MARTIN, M.B.Ch.B. D.C.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector and Surveyor -

T.A.C.MARCH, F.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector and Deputy Surveyor -

A.P.GRANT, M.A.P.H.I.

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WISBECH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1957.

Mr.Chairman and Gentlemen,

I present, for your consideration, the Annual Report of the Public Health and Welfare of the Rural District of Wisbech for the year ending 31st December, 1957.

The most notable event of the year was probably the relatively severe epidemic of poliomyelitis which was suffered by a village in the Rural District. With the advent of preventive inocculation against this disease, it is hoped that it will be virtually wiped out.

This year, again, I welcome the opportunity of thanking the Chairman and Members of the Council for their help and support, particularly during the period of the poliomyelitis epidemic. I would like to record too, my gratitude to the Senior Public Health Inspector, and the Staff of the Public Health Department.

I have the honour to be Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

J. Owen C. Martin

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District	49,841 acres.
Registrar General's estimate of mid-year population for 1957	12,500
Estimate mid-year population for 1956	12,430
Rateable value 1st April, 1957	£77,839
Rateable value 1st April, 1956	£77,034
Product of a penny rate	£300
Number of inhabitated houses according to Rate books	4,082

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS - 199.

	M	F	Wisbech R.D. Birth Rate (adjusted).	Administrative County.	England and Wales.
TOTAL:	118	81			
Legitimate:	113	77	15.9	16.13	16.1
Illegitimate:	5	4			

Area comparability Factor (Births) 1.00
(Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident mid-1957 population)

STILL BIRTHS - 3.

	M	F	Wisbech R.D. Still Birth Rate.	Administrative County.	England and Wales.
TOTAL:	1	2			
Legitimate:	1	2	14.9	21.14	22.4
Illegitimate:	-	-			

Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births.

DEATHS (all causes):

TOTAL:	M	F	Wisbech R.D. Death Rate (adjusted).	Administrative County.	England and Wales.
98	66	32	7.9	11.08	11.5

Area comparability Factor (deaths) 1.08
(Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident mid-1957 population)

DEATHS - Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion - 1.

DEATHS - Infants under 1 year of age -

TOTAL: 2	M	F	Wisbech R.D. Infant Mortality Rate.	Administrative County.	England and Wales.
Legitimate:	2	-	10.1	20.22	23.0
Illegitimate:	-	-			

CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER 1 YEAR -

Prematurity:	1
Acute Otitis Media:	1

DEATHS of infants under 4 weeks of age -

TOTAL: 1

	M	F
Legitimate =	1	-
Illegitimate =	-	-

DEATHS from Cancer (all ages) - 20.

GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES.

Isle of Ely Executive Council - Bank House, West End, March.

Clerk: A.R.Marsh, Esq.

East Anglian Regional Hospital Board - 117, Chesterton Road, Cambridge.

Senior Administrative Medical Officer - Dr.J.B.Ewen.

(a) GENERAL:

(1) North Cambridgeshire Hospital, Wisbech.
(11) Clarkson Hospital, Wisbech.
(111) Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.
(1V) Addenbrooks Hospital, Cambridge.
(V) Doddington Hospital, Doddington.

(b) MATERNITY:

Bowthorpe Maternity Home, Wisbech.

(c) INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

Isolation Hospital, Peterborough.

(d) SANATORIA:

Accommodation is provided through the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board.

(e) MENTAL:

Accommodation is provided through the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board by arrangement with local General Practitioners usually Fulbourne.

(f) VENEREAL DISEASE:

(1) Addenbrooks Hospital, Cambridge.
(11) Peterborough Memorial Hospital.
(111) West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital.

(g) MEDICAL EQUIPMENT SERVICE:

Medical equipment is provided on loan by the St.Johns Ambula Division and the Red Cross Medical Loan Depot by arrangement w the County Council.

MIDWIFERY, GENERAL SICK NURSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING:

The Nursing Staff is employed by the Isle of Ely County Council either directly or by arrangement with the County Nursing Associati under the National Health Service Act, 1946.

In the Parishes given, all those undertaking midwifery and gener nursing are qualified to administer gas/air analgesia and pethedine and the necessary number of gas/air machines are available for thei use.

ELM, UPWELL AND OUTWELL -

Miss A.Heney, Halfpenny Lane, ELM, (Wisbech 1806).	Q.N. S.R.N. S.C.M. H.V.Cert.	Relief Midwife; General Nursing; Public Health Nursing; School Nurse.
Mrs.M.Hatton, 35, Glebe Close, MANEA, Cambs.	Q.N. S.C.M. H.V.Cert.	Relief Midwife; General Nursing; Public Health Nursing; School Nurse.
Mrs.J.B.D.Benson, 8, Bungalow, Gosmoor Lane, ELM. (F/Bridge 246).	S.C.M.	Midwifery only. (Retired March, 1957).

WISBECH ST.MARY & PARSON DROVE -

Mrs.A.L.Guiver, "Pitsdale", LEVERINGTON. (W.St.Mary 244).	S.R.N. S.C.M.	Midwifery only.
Miss M.E.Joynt, Nurses House, Church Road, WISBECH ST.MARY. (W.St.Mary 249).	Q.N. S.C.M. H.V.Cert.	Wisbech St.Mary - General Nursing only. Parson Drove - Public Health Nursing.

LEVERINGTON, NEWTON & TYDD ST.GILES -

Miss E.M.Burdett, High Road, GOREFIELD, Nr.Wisbech.	Q.N. S.C.M.	Midwifery; General Nursing.
Miss E.T.Taylor, "Leigh Bank", Leverington Road, WISBECH.	S.R.N. S.C.M.	Health Visitor; Public Health Nursing in the Parishes not covered. School Nurse for all these Parishes.
Mrs.E.Young, 33, School Lane, MANEA, Cambs.	S.R.N. S.C.M. H.V.Cert.	Tuberculosis Health Visitor.

AMBULANCE AND HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE:

A County Council Service - there are three ambulances garaged at Messrs.Dennis Transport, Sutton Road, Leverington.

COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES:

Infant Welfare Centres -

(a) Guyhirn (Village Hall) ..... 3rd Thursday.
(b) Parson Drove (Church Hall) ..... 1st Wednesday.
(c) Leverington (Church Hall) ..... 2nd Tuesday.
(d) Fridaybridge(" ") ..... 4th Wednesday.
(e) Christchurch (Parish Room) ..... 1st and 3rd Tues.
(f) Newton (Women's Institute) ..... 1st Thursday.

School Minor Ailment Clinics -

(a) County Clinics, Lynn Road, Wisbech.
(b) Beaupre School, Outwell.

School Dental Clinic -

Lynn Road, Wisbech.

Home Help Service -

Organised and operated by County Council.

Disinfection and Disinfestation -

Premises - by the Senior Public Health Inspector's Staff.
Bedding, clothing, etc., which cannot be dealt with by this Departm are sent to Peterborough Isolation Hospital.

Laboratory Services -

(a) Public Health Laboratory Service,
Tennis Court Road,
CAMBRIDGE.
(Director - Dr.Fry).

(b) Public Analyst,
S.Greenburgh, P.H.D. B.Sc.,F.R.I.C.
25, St.Barnabas Road,
CAMBRIDGE.

NEW CASES AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1957:

Age period (years):	New Cases: Respiratory		New Cases: Non-Respiratory		Deaths: Respiratory		Deaths: Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
- 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6 - 15	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16 - 25	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
26 -- 35	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
36 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
46 - 55	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
56 - 65	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

For the third year, in succession, there were no deaths from tuberculosis. However, the number of notifications of new cases has risen. This fact serves as a reminder that, although tuberculosis is now so eminently treatable, it is far from being completely conquered. Constant vigilance is required.

In June, 1957, the Mass Miniature Radiography Unit visited the town, and Rural District Councillors gave an important lead by attending for X-ray.

CAUSES OF DEATH - 1957:

	M	F	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	0	0
Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
Syphilitic Disease	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infections	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	1	1
Measles	0	0	0
Other infective and parastic diseases	0	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	1	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	1	5
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	0	0
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	6	11
Leukeamia, aleukeamia	0	1	1
Diabetes	0	0	0
Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	4	15
Coronary disease, angina	14	5	19
Hypertension with heart disease	0	1	1
Other heart disease	3	3	6
Other circulatory disease	2	3	5
Influenza	0	0	0
Pneumonia	5	1	6
Bronchitis	4	1	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	0	0	0
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	0	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0	0
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	0	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	0	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	1	1
Congenital malformations	0	0	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	2	5
Motor vehicle accidents	3	0	3
All other accidents	2	0	2
Suicide	1	0	1
Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
All causes	66	32	98

The number of deaths from Cancer of the lung remains near to that of last year. There now seems to be little doubt that there is a connection between cigarette smoking and this disease. During 1957, it was wisely decided by the Council to discontinue smoking during Council Meetings. A decision by a Public Health Authority to have no smoking during Committee Meetings would be a stimulating example to the general public.

In a Rural District with a population of only 12,500, three deat as a result of motor accidents is a serious waste of life. This fact brings home to us a great new public health problem - the danger on our roads.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES - 1957:

	Notifications:
Dysentery	0
Typhoid Fever	0
Paratyphoid Fever	0
Meningococcal Infections	0
Scarlet Fever	16
Whooping Cough	21
Diphtheria	0
Erysipelas	4
Smallpox	0
Measles	240
Pneumonia	2
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)	
Paralytic	7
Non-Paralytic	2
Food Poisoning	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0
Tuberculosis (all forms)	7
Malaria	0
Infective Jaundice	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0

In August and September, 1957, 9 cases of Acute Poliomyelitis (including 1 death) were notified in the village of Guyhirn. The incidence was very high in relation to the small population of the village. As the outbreak was so localised, it was decided to exclude from work, close relatives who worked outside the village. There were three claims for compensation. An epidemiological expert from the Ministry of Health visited the village, but all efforts to trace a definite line of spread of infection failed. Innoculation against poliomyelitis had begun in the area before the epidemic occurred, and by the end of the year, was well under way.

There were again no cases of Diphtheria or Smallpox notified in the Rural District. This satisfactory state of affairs will only last if the public continue to appreciate the importance of immunisation against Diphtheria, and vaccination against Smallpox. Unfortunately, a new generation of mothers, who have not witnessed the agony of Diphtheria or Smallpox, tend to be forgetful of the importance of preventive innoculations.

It is satisfactory to note that there have been no cases of Food Poisoning or other enteric disease notified during 1957. However, as the importance of cleanliness in food shops, hotels, restaurants and cafes should never be forgotten by food handlers and the general public, it was decided to co-operate with Wisbech Borough in an evening of films and lectures about clean food. The Meeting, held in January, was fairly well attended.

During October, November and December, 1957, Asian 'flu' caused considerable illness in the area. As influenza is not a notifiable disease, it is not possible to state how many people were affected. The disease did not take a severe form, and there were no deaths.

HOUSING.

I am indebted to the Senior Public Health Inspector for the following Reports:-

Number of houses completed during 1957:-

Council Houses	- 18	Private	- 31.
Bungalows	- 3		
	21		

Number of houses under construction at the end of 1957:-

Council Bungalows - 10. Private - 13.

UNFIT HOUSES -

There were fewer unfit houses dealt with to prevent them being used for human habitation than in the previous year, the figures being two Demolition Orders, nine closed by formal or informal action, and two demolished in anticipation of Demolition Orders.

There are approximately 377 houses unfit distributed in the Parishes as follows:-

Elm	-	58.
Leverington	-	78.
Newton	-	17.
Outwell	-	28
Parson Drove	-	38
Tydd St.Giles	-	23
Upwell	-	37
Wisbech St.Mary	-	98

RENT ACT, 1957 -

The passing of this Act in the middle of the year had very little effect; only three applications were received by the end of the year for Certificates of Disrepair, these were granted and had the desired effect.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS -

Applications for grants for improvements to private dwellings have been dealt with jointly by the Public Health and Architect's Departments as in the previous year.

Grants were approved for 25 houses during the year to a total of £5,901.

BUILDING BYELAWS -

The examination of all plans submitted under the Building Byelaws, preparation of reports to the Planning Committee, and subsequent inspection of work in progress, is carried out by the Public Health Department, and during the year, 129 plans were dealt with.

CESSPOOL AND PRIVY EMPTYING -

The one cesspool emptier operated by two men was working to capacity throughout the year; in all, 1,126 loads being taken from 933 private cesspools, 137 privies were emptied, and 203 loads of sludge removed from the Council's Sewage Disposal Plants on 12 housing estates.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL -

A fortnightly collection of refuse is carried out over practically the whole of the district, and a twice weekly collection for about three-quarters of the year from the Agricultural Camp at Fridaybridge, by two men with one vehicle. Towards the end of the year, the side-loader vehicle was changed to a fore-and-aft tipper, which improved the working conditions considerably, and cut down the journeys to the tip.

During the year, approximately 1,950 tons of refuse were collected and disposed of, and about 100 tons of covering material carted to the tips.

FOOD -

There was no change in regard to food premises generally, premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream, and those used in connection with the sale of Milk.

MEAT INSPECTION -

No difficulty was experienced in the inspection of all slaughtered animals for human consumption in the three slaughterhouses in the district.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

1957. 1.1.57 to 31.12.57.	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed:	97	42	-	77	584	-
Number inspected:	97	42	-	77	584	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.						
Whole carcases condemned:	-	-	-	-	4	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned:	28	6	-	25	176	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci:	28.8	14.2	-	30.2	30.1	-
Tubercolosis only -						
Whole carcases condemned:	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned:	4	2	-	-	13	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis:	4.1	4.7	-	-	2.2	-
Cysticercosis -						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned:						
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration:						
Generalised and totally condemned:						

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FACTORIES ACT, 1947 and 1948.
Part 1 of the Act.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of Inspections (4)	Number of Written Notices (5)	Number of Occ. Prs'ctd (6)	M/c line No. (7)
(i) Factories in which Sects.1, 2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities:	1	47	42	-	-	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority:	2	30	47	-	-	2
(iii) Other premises in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises):	3	-	-	-	-	3
Total:	-	77	89	-	-	-

2. No defects were discovered during the year.